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(54) **BEARING**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A rolling element bearing comprising inner and outer rings; a plurality of rolling elements disposed between opposing surfaces of the inner and outer rings; and a bearing shield comprising a first member having an annular surface facing the plurality of rolling elements, the first member either (1) extending from the inner ring towards the outer ring (defining a gap between the first member and the outer ring) and the inner ring having a low surface energy surface adjacent the gap, or (2) extending from the outer ring towards the inner ring (defining a gap between the first member and the inner ring) and the inner ring comprises a low energy surface adjacent the gap. The low energy surfaces each have a surface energy of ≤0.028 N/m.

7 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets